के दौरान कुल 243 व्यक्ति मरे थे।

(ख) और (ग) जम्मू और कश्मीर सरकार ने उन 151 व्यक्तियों जिनके शवों की शिनाख्त हो चुकी है, के परिवारों को अनुग्रहपूर्वक राहत का भुगतान करने के लिए विभिन्न राज्य सरकारों को अब तक 302 लाख रुपये जारी किए हैं। मृत तीर्थ यात्रियों के रिश्तेदारों को अनुग्रहपूर्वक राहत का संवितरण संबंधित जिला कलेक्टरों के माध्यम से किया जा रहा है। शवों की पहचान करने तथा मृत तीर्थ यात्रियों के निकट संबंधी का पता लगाने में राज्य तंत्र के समक्ष आने वाली व्यावहारिक कठिनाइयों के कारण इन परिवारों को मुआवजे का भुगतान करने में देर हुई है। राज्य तंत्र को सलाह दी गई है कि वे फोटो आदि को प्रकाशित कर व्यापक प्रचार करके इस समस्या पर काबू पाए जिससे कि परिवारों द्वारा मृत तीर्थ यात्रियों की पहचान करने में आसानी हो तथा मृतक के निकट संबंधी को यथाशीघ्र भुगतान किया जा सके।

Permission sought by the Government of Gujarat to raise coastal Home Guards Battalions

2675. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Government has requested for permission to raise two battalions of Home Guards to enable the local authorities for strengthening the Coastal security; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal is under examination.

Refugees in different parts of the country

2676. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of refugees from Tibet, Bangladesh, Burma, Sirlanka and other neighbouring countries who have taken refuge in different parts of the country;

(b) the extent to which their numbers have sweeled through natural demographic process, during their stay over the years and how many have since acquired Indian citizenship; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to ensure their repatriation to their respective home State indicating stage at which the negotiations with respective countries stand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New lottery system

2677. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a new lottery system launched or proposed to be launched by certain State Governments like Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, called the on-line lottery system to replace the conventional paper lotteries; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have laid any guidelines for award of licences and operating the on-line lottery system, under entry 40 of the

Union List in the Constitution of India, in so far as this system is a value added telecom-service falling under Centre's domain; if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) The States of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab have intimated that they propose to launch on-line lottery system. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has also stated that there is no proposal to replace the conventional paper lottery.

(b) The Central Government has not yet laid down any guidelines for on-line lotteries. However, as and when the State Governments start such lotteries, they shall have to take all necessary clearances from competent authorities as stipulated by law. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has informed that on-line lotteries will be operated as per the Supreme Court's guidelines laid down in their order dated 21.7.1994 in the case of State of Haryana Vs. M/s Suman Enterprises and Others. The Government of Punjab has reported that the entire operation/work pertaining to all types of lotteries, including on-line lotteries, is being done in accordance with the Constitutional provisions and that the lottery schemes conform to all the minimal characteristics of a lottery as envisaged and prescribed by the Supreme Court of India in the case of State of Haryana Vs. M/s Suman Enterprises and Others.

Crime against women

2678. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether these was a sudden upsurge in crime against women in 1994 with 98,948 reported cases of rape, kidnapping and abduction, against 83,954 such cases in 1993, and 79,037 in 1992; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to curb the menace and how far the same were successful bringing down such cases in 1995 and 1996 indicating the State/Territory-wise position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Available information in regard to Crime Against Women for the period 1992 to 1996 is enclosed in the statement (*see* below).

In 1994, at All-India level, 98,948 cases were registered under 'Crime Against Women' (wherein women alone are the victims) compared to 83,954 cases in 1993 and 79,037 cases in 1992. In absolute numbers, the figures indicate a sudden upsurge of 17.9 per cent in 1994 over 1993.

It may be clarified that the incidents of crime under four heads, which were not taken into consideration earlier, have been documented for the year 1994. The cases registered under the Sati Prevention Act, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act and Importing of Girls (upto 21 years of age) have been brought within the ambit of the crime data collection. Incidents reported under these heads from 1994 alone added a share of 8.2 per cent of the total cases recorded under Crime Against Women. In the absence of data for these heads in the earlier years, no comparison is possible, nor any analysis could be attempted for such crimes with previous years.